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The WOOL SITUATION

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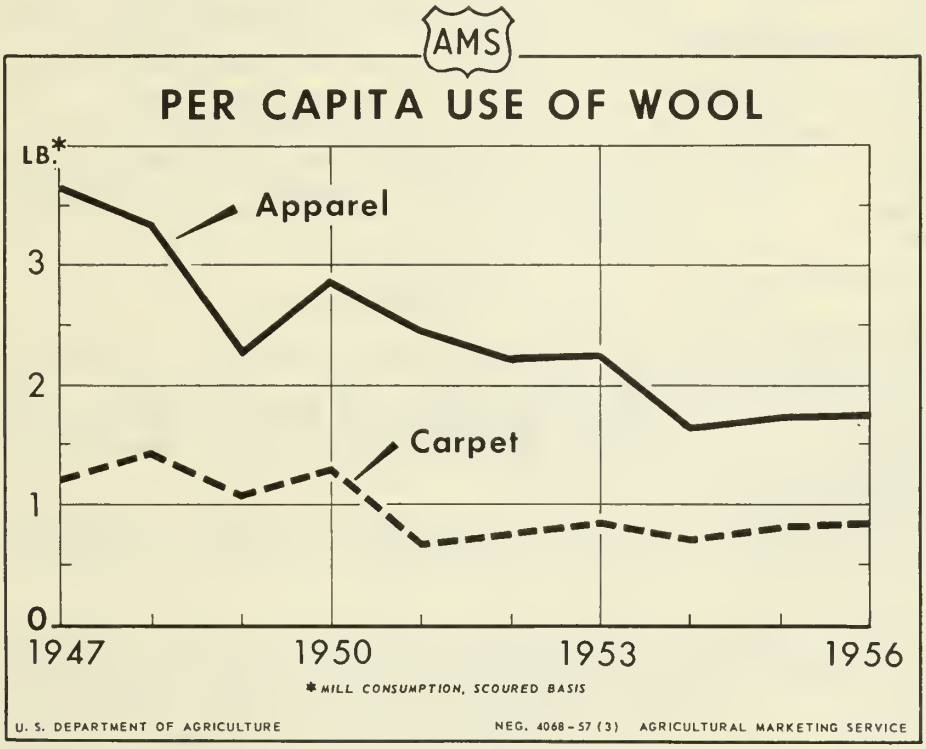

Per capita mill use of apparel wool increased a little over the last two years. The increase followed a sharp decline from 1947 through 1954. Per capita use in 1956 was about 7 percent above the post-World War II low of 1954, but it was 19 percent below 1935-39. Average per capita use during the last three years was 22 percent below 1935-39.

Per capita mill consumption of carpet wool also increased in 1956 for the second year in succession. After a sharp decline in 1951, it has shown a slight upward trend. Per capita use in 1956 was about 29 percent above the post-World War II low of 1951 and about 15 percent above 1935-39. The average for the last three years was about 7 percent above 1935-39.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE

STATISTICAL SUMMARY
Part I - Prices

Item	Unit	1955	1956				1957			Last data available as percent of a year earlier
		Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	
Wool										
Average price received by farmers, grease basis	Cents per pound	39.4	37.8	39.3	40.3	46.2	47.2	47.5	48.7	121
Parity price		58.6	60.1	59.9	60.3	61.8	64.5	65.0	65.2	108
Farm as percent of parity	Percent	67	63	66	67	75	73	73	75	
Boston, clean basis 1/	Cents per pound									
Domestic										
Graded territory										
Fine good French combing and staple	do.	129.8	131.6	132.1	129.8	162.5	162.5	162.5	162.2	125
1/2 blood good French combing and staple	do.	117.5	121.2	122.5	122.5	147.5	152.5	152.5	152.2	124
3/8 blood good French combing and staple	do.	108.1	111.1	112.5	111.4	132.5	132.5	132.5	132.5	119
1/4 blood good French combing and staple	do.	102.5	105.1	107.2	106.6	122.5	122.5	122.5	122.5	115
Low 1/4 blood	do.	92.5	96.2	97.5	96.2	109.5	109.5	109.5	109.5	114
Common and braid	do.	91.2	92.5	92.5	92.5	101.5	101.5	101.5	101.5	110
Graded fleece										
Delaine	do.	127.5	131.2	138.0	136.6	162.5	162.5	162.5	162.5	119
1/2 blood good French combing and staple	do.	111.5	116.8	117.5	117.5	137.5	137.5	137.5	137.5	117
3/8 blood good French combing and staple	do.	102.9	106.4	107.8	104.6	119.5	119.5	118.8	117.0	112
1/4 blood good French combing and staple	do.	98.4	101.5	102.7	98.0	117.5	117.1	113.0	111.9	114
Low 1/4 blood	do.	89.2	91.9	92.5	92.5	105.0	105.0	105.0	105.0	114
Common and braid	do.	86.6	87.5	87.5	87.5	95.0	95.0	95.0	95.0	109
Original bag Texas										
Fine 12 months good French combing and staple	do.	132.5	134.8	142.5	141.2	162.5	162.5	162.5	162.5	115
Fine 8 months (1" and over)	do.	117.5	118.8	122.5	121.2	142.5	142.5	142.5	142.5	118
Fine fall (3/4" and over)	do.	102.5	105.0	112.5	112.5	132.5	132.5	132.5	132.5	118
Imported, excluding duty										
Australian										
64's, 70's warp and 1/2 warp	do.	127.5	135.0	137.5	137.5	157.5	157.5	162.5	162.5	118
64's, 70's good topmaking	do.	122.5	130.0	132.5	132.5	152.5	152.5	157.5	157.5	119
64's combing	do.	117.5	125.0	127.5	127.5	142.5	142.5	147.5	147.5	116
58's, 60's combing	do.	112.5	120.0	122.5	122.5	135.0	136.5	142.5	142.5	116
Montevideo super										
0's (58's, 60's)	do.	102.0	102.5	102.5	102.5	127.8	140.4	142.8	141.5	138
1's (56's)	do.	98.0	98.5	98.5	98.5	122.2	131.5	134.0	134.0	136
2's (50's)	do.	94.5	95.5	95.5	95.5	115.0	126.3	130.0	130.0	136
3's (46's, 48's)	do.	91.0	91.0	91.0	91.0	95.5	95.5	95.5	96.0	105
4's (44's)	do.	88.5	88.5	88.5	88.5	94.5	94.5	94.5	94.5	107
5's (40's)	do.	88.5	88.5	88.5	88.5	94.5	94.5	94.5	94.5	107
Manmade staple fiber										
Viscose, 1-1/2 denier 2/	do.	32.0	32.0	32.0	32.0	32.0	32.0	32.0	3/	100
Acetate, 5 denier 2/	do.	32.0	32.0	32.0	32.0	32.0	32.0	32.0	3/	100
Nylon, 3 denier 4/	do.	125.0	125.0	125.0	125.0	128.0	128.0	128.0	128.0	102
Dacron, 3, 4.5, and 6 denier 4/	do.	135.0	135.0	135.0	135.0	141.0	141.0	141.0	141.0	104
Orlon, 3, 4.5, and 6 denier 4/	do.	125.0	125.0	125.0	125.0	128.0	128.0	128.0	128.0	102
Acrilan, 3 and 5 denier 4/	do.	112.0	112.0	112.0	112.0	112.0	112.0	112.0	112.0	100
Dynel, 2, 3, 6, 12, and 24 denier 4/	do.	105.0	105.0	105.0	105.0	105.0	105.0	105.0	105.0	100
Vicara, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 7 denier 4/	do.	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100

1/ From Weekly Review of the Boston Wool Market. 2/ From Textile Organon. 3/ Not available. 4/ From Modern Textile Magazine.

THE WOOL SITUATION

Approved by the Outlook and Situation Board, April 11, 1957

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SUMMARY

Wool prices in early April, when the 1957 domestic wool marketing season opened, were considerably higher than a year earlier in domestic and foreign markets. Most advances were within a range of 10 to 30 percent. Advances for fine wools were much greater than for other wools. Mid-March average of prices received by domestic producers for shorn wool was 21 percent higher than a year earlier. Wool prices advanced over the past year even though supplies increased indicating a strengthening of world demand.

Producers this year, in addition to their returns from current marketings, will receive Government payments under the 1956 incentive program on their marketings of wool and unshorn lambs during the 1956 domestic marketing season (April 1, 1956-March 31, 1957). The rates of payment will be based on the percentage needed to bring the average return per pound of shorn wool up to the incentive level of 62 cents. Average of prices received during first 10 months of the 1956 season is tentatively estimated at 42.7 cents. Preliminary averages for February and March, the last two months of the season are 47.5 and 48.7 cents, respectively.

Under the 1955 program, 42.8 cents was average price used to compute the rates of payment. The incentive level was also 62 cents, the same as for 1956. Payments under the 1955 program amounted to about 57 million dollars paid in 1956. They were equivalent to about 12 percent of gross income (cash receipts from marketings plus Government payments) from the sheep enterprise last year. Payments on shorn wool were equivalent to about one-third of gross income from shorn wool.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY

Part II - Supplies and Mill Activity

Item	Unit	1955	1956				1957		Last data available as percent of a year earlier
		Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb. 1/	
Imports for consumption, clean content	Million pounds								
Dutiable 2/	do.	8.1	12.3	11.9	13.4	6.3	9.8		80
60's and finer	do.	4.6	7.2	6.0	6.7	3.9	5.9		82
56's - 60's	do.	1.5	1.6	1.8	1.9	1.0	1.3		81
50's - 56's	do.	.5	1.0	1.4	1.7	.5	.8		80
44's - 50's	do.	.3	.4	.3	.7	.1	.2		50
40's - 44's	do.	.2	.4	.5	.4	.1	.4		100
Not finer than 40's	do.	.8	1.5	1.6	1.8	.5	.7		47
Donskoi, Smyrna, etc.	do.	.2	.2	.3	.2	.2	.5		250
Duty-free	do.	8.8	16.9	17.1	14.7	7.8	13.8		82
Donskoi, Smyrna, etc.	do.	4.6	7.5	4.6	5.5	4.4	6.7		89
Not finer than 40's	do.	4.2	9.4	12.5	9.2	3.4	7.1		76
Accumulated since January 1									
Dutiable 2/	do.	112.7	12.3	24.2	37.6	103.7	9.8		80
60's and finer	do.	65.3	7.2	13.3	20.0	52.4	5.9		82
56's - 60's	do.	16.9	1.6	3.4	5.3	15.7	1.3		81
50's - 56's	do.	9.6	1.0	2.3	4.0	11.6	.8		80
44's - 50's	do.	3.6	.4	.7	1.3	3.8	.2		50
40's - 44's	do.	4.4	.4	.9	1.4	4.6	.4		100
Not finer than 40's	do.	10.1	1.5	3.0	4.8	12.6	.7		47
Donskoi, Smyrna, etc.	do.	2.3	.2	.5	.7	2.9	.5		250
Duty-free	do.	135.9	16.9	33.9	48.6	142.8	13.8		82
Donskoi, Smyrna, etc.	do.	74.7	7.5	12.0	17.6	64.3	6.7		89
Not finer than 40's	do.	61.2	9.4	21.9	31.0	78.5	7.1		76
Imports for consumption, actual weight									
Dutiable	do.	12.1	18.6	17.6	20.2	9.4	14.2		76
Duty-free	do.	12.3	24.0	24.2	20.0	10.5	18.8		78
Mill consumption, scoured basis 3/									
Per week, during month 4/									
Apparel (domestic and duty-paid foreign)	1,000 pounds	5,198	6,139	6,370	5,885	5,174	5,306	5,581	88
60's and finer	do.	2,882	3,325	3,454	3,273	2,813	2,728	2,956	86
50's up to 60's	do.	1,793	2,156	2,190	1,994	1,998	2,178	2,126	97
48's and coarser	do.	523	658	726	618	363	400	499	69
Carpet (duty-free foreign)	do.	2,775	3,203	3,351	2,890	2,677	2,973	3,199	95
Accumulated since January 1									
Apparel (domestic and duty-paid foreign)	Million pounds	281.2	24.6	50.0	79.5	295.7	26.5	48.9	98
60's and finer	do.	148.1	13.3	27.1	43.5	160.5	13.6	25.5	94
50's up to 60's	do.	101.3	8.6	17.4	27.4	106.5	10.9	19.4	111
48's and coarser	do.	31.8	2.7	5.5	8.6	28.7	2.0	4.0	73
Carpet (duty-free foreign)	do.	132.6	12.8	26.2	40.7	143.7	14.9	27.7	106
Woven wool fabric production 5/	Million linear yards								
Accumulated since January 1									
Apparel fabrics	do.	295.1			79.3	315.2			107
Government orders	do.	6.4			.8	3.3			52
Men's and boys' wear	do.	140.2			39.4	156.4			112
Women's and children's wear	do.	148.5			39.1	155.5			105
Non-apparel fabrics	do.	15.0			3.4	11.8			79
Blanketing	do.	10.6			2.2	8.6			81
Other non-apparel fabrics	do.	4.4			1.2	3.2			73
Total woven fabrics	do.	310.1			82.7	327.0			105

1/ Preliminary.
2/ Includes carbonized wool which is not reported by grade.
3/ On woolen and worsted systems; excludes wool consumed on the cotton and other spinning systems and in the manufacture of felts, hat bodies, and other miscellaneous products.
4/ Monthly periods are 4 or 5 calendar weeks generally totaling 13 weeks each quarter.
5/ Principally wool, reprocessed wool, or reused wool by weight.

Compiled from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Payments under the 1957 program on marketings of wool and unshorn lambs for the current season (April 1, 1957-March 31, 1958) will be made next year. The incentive level remains unchanged at 62 cents. The rates of payment will be computed as under the 1955 and 1956 programs.

Production of shorn wool in the United States last year is now estimated at 232 million pounds, 1 percent less than in 1955. A further slight decline is likely this year; the number of stock sheep and lambs early this year was down 2 percent from a year earlier. Changes in sheep numbers and shorn wool production over the last 5 years have been slight, with an increase in the Native or fleece wool States offsetting only part of a decline in the Western sheep States. About 40 million pounds of pulled wool were produced last year, in addition to shorn wool. The quantity pulled was about 4 percent less than in 1955. Combined output of shorn and pulled wool was equivalent to about 132 million pounds, scoured basis, about 2 percent less than in 1955.

When the Commodity Credit Corporation puts its competitive bid sales program for wool into effect on November 1, 1955, its holdings of wool amounted to about 149 million pounds, actual weight, or roughly 68 million pounds, scoured. By the end of March 1957, CCC holdings had been reduced to 55 million pounds, actual weight, or roughly 25 million pounds, scoured. Sales of CCC wool under the program were less than the monthly quota of 6 1/4 million pounds, actual weight, during both February and March, when the 1957 clip began to come on the market and domestic demand eased a little. Sales were also below the quota during that part of 1956 when growers' marketings were heavy. Indications are that during recent months total stocks (Government and private holdings) have been lower than a year earlier.

The rate of domestic mill use of both apparel and carpet wool dropped below a year earlier last November and continued below a year earlier through February, the latest month for which information is available. The average weekly rate of consumption of apparel wool during the first two months of 1957 was 13 percent below a year earlier. The rate for carpet wool was down 6 percent. Domestic mill use of wool during 1956 is now estimated to have been 6 percent above 1955 and 15 percent above 1954. Apparel wool increased 5 and 11 percent, respectively, and carpet wool 8 and 26 percent, respectively.

World consumption of wool during 1956 is tentatively estimated to have been about 8 percent larger than in 1955 and 11 percent larger than in 1954. Last year's total consumption was a little larger than production. Use during the final quarter of 1956 was about 9 percent above a year earlier.

Table 1.- Price per pound of fleece wools at the London auctions, clean basis (Bradford yield), 1955-57

Week ended 1/		Good medium fleeces		Fine cross-bred fleeces		Crossbred fleeces	
		64's-70's	58's-60's	56's	50's	48's	46's
		Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents
1955							
January	14	150.9	119.5	104.4	89.4	84.7	83.6
January	21	155.5	120.7	106.8	91.7	87.0	84.7
February	18	155.3	121.7	110.1	93.9	89.3	88.1
February	25	155.6	124.3	110.3	95.2	91.8	90.6
March	25	153.6	124.5	108.2	94.3	90.8	89.6
April	1	149.0	124.5	108.2	94.3	90.8	89.6
May	13	149.2	124.7	110.7	95.6	90.9	89.7
May	20	148.8	124.4	110.4	96.5	91.8	90.7
July	15	141.5	116.0	---	92.8	88.1	87.0
July	22	133.4	113.6	---	91.6	87.0	85.8
September	9	127.6	109.1	98.6	83.5	81.2	78.9
September	22	130.0	109.1	---	84.7	82.4	80.1
October	28	134.0	111.9	97.9	88.6	85.1	82.7
November	4	134.3	112.1	---	89.9	86.4	84.1
December	2	135.4	112.1	---	91.1	88.7	87.6
December	9	135.4	113.2	---	92.2	89.9	88.7
1956							
January	20	135.7	111.2	94.8	90.1	87.8	87.8
January	27	136.9	111.1	92.4	87.7	85.4	85.4
March	2	138.0	107.6	---	84.2	81.9	80.7
March	15	138.0	105.2	92.4	83.0	80.7	80.7
April	20	140.4	115.9	99.5	87.8	85.4	85.4
April	27	142.6	115.7	99.4	87.7	85.3	85.3
June	1	151.8	---	101.6	---	---	86.4
June	8	151.9	122.7	101.6	88.8	86.5	86.5
July	13	151.4	128.1	---	88.5	86.2	86.2
July	20	153.7	128.1	---	89.7	87.3	86.2
September	14	165.8	139.1	104.3	97.4	95.1	92.8
September	21	165.8	139.2	---	97.4	95.1	92.8
October	26	156.6	133.4	99.8	91.7	89.3	88.2
October	31	156.5	133.3	99.7	93.9	91.6	90.4
November	30	170.4	139.1	110.1	104.3	100.9	100.9
December	7	169.3	135.7	105.5	97.4	95.1	93.9
1957							
January	18	172.5	138.7	106.0	97.9	95.6	95.6
February	1	174.9	138.8	111.9	99.1	95.6	95.6
February	22	174.9	143.4	121.2	102.6	96.8	95.6
March	1	172.5	139.8	114.2	99.0	94.4	93.2
March	29	171.9	141.7	118.5	103.4	97.6	97.6
April	5	171.8	144.0	120.8	105.7	99.9	99.9

1/ Opening and closing weeks for each series.

Compiled from Kreglinger and Fernau market reports. Prices converted from pence to cents at current rates of exchange.

Survey of Recent Developments

Wool Prices Considerably Higher Than Year Ago

With a strengthening of world demand relative to available supplies, prices of wool advanced, except for temporary interruptions, from late March 1956 into early April of this year. Net advances for most merino wools at the British Dominion auctions ranged between 20 and 30 percent. Advances for most crossbreds ranged between 10 and 20 percent. Net advances in Boston quotations for most domestic fine and half-blood wools were between 20 and 30 percent, and for most other domestic wools between 10 and 20 percent (table 2).

Revised estimates of prices received by growers for shorn wool for the first 10 months of the 1956 domestic marketing season show upward adjustments for most months. The revised estimates show about the same price movement over the season as the original estimates. Prices changed little during the first 6 months of the season, with the averages ranging between a low of 41.3 cents per pound, grease basis, and a high of 41.9 cents. An upward movement started in October. For March 1957, the last month of the 1956 marketing season, the average was 48.7 cents, 21 percent higher than a year earlier.

Late in February the Crop Reporting Board announced 42.7 cents as a preliminary estimate of the average of prices received for shorn wool sold during April 1956-January 1957, the first 10 months of the 1956 marketing season. The corresponding tentative estimate was 44.0 cents, made a year earlier for the first 10 months of the 1955 marketing season. The average received for the entire 1955 marketing season, 42.8 cents, was announced last summer. This average was used to determine the rates of payment under the 1955 program. In contrast with the situation at the close of the 1955 marketing season, the 1956 season ended with prices substantially higher than at the beginning.

Value of Shorn Wool Sales Last Year Almost Same as for 1955

The value of sales for shorn wool produced in 1956 has been tentatively estimated at 99.2 million dollars, less than 1 percent below the 99.8 million dollars received for the 1955 clip (table 3). The estimate for 1956 is based on estimated production and the tentative average of prices received for shorn wool during April 1956-January 1957, the first 10 months of the 1956 marketing season. It is subject to revision when the average of prices received for the entire season is known.

The estimated dollar value of sales for 1956 does not include Government payments made last year on marketings of shorn wool during the 1955 marketing season. These payments amounted to almost 50 million dollars,

Table 2.- Prices of domestic shorn wool at Boston, clean basis, for week ended April 5, 1957 with comparisons

Classification	Average 1947-49	1956 week ended Apr. 6	1957 week ended Feb. 15	1957 week ended Apr. 5	Percentage change week ended Apr. 5 from: Average 1947-49	Apr. 6 1956	Feb. 15 1957
	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Percent	Percent	Percent
Graded							
Territory and Texas							
Fine, good French combing and staple	151.7	128.0	162.5	161.5	+6.5	+26.2	-0.6
1/2 blood, good French combing and staple	137.1	120.0	152.5	151.5	+10.2	+26.2	-.7
3/8 blood, good French combing and staple	109.1	108.0	132.5	132.5	+21.4	+22.7	0
1/4 blood, good French combing and staple	100.0	104.0	122.5	122.5	+22.5	+17.8	0
Low 1/4 blood	89.9	97.5	109.5	109.5	+21.8	+12.3	0
Common and braid	83.5	92.5	101.5	101.5	+21.6	+9.7	0
Fleece							
Fine, Delaine	154.5	132.5	162.5	161.0	+4.2	+21.5	-.9
1/2 blood, good French combing and staple	131.6	114.0	137.5	137.5	+4.5	+20.6	0
3/8 blood, good French combing and staple	103.2	100.0	118.5	116.5	+12.9	+16.5	-1.7
1/4 blood, good French combing and staple	97.0	95.5	110.0	111.0	+14.4	+16.2	+.9
Low 1/4 blood	78.4	92.5	105.0	105.0	+33.9	+13.5	0
Common and braid	73.4	87.5	95.0	95.0	+29.4	+8.6	0
Original bag							
Fine Texas							
Good French combing and staple	150.9	132.5	162.5	162.5	+7.7	+22.6	0
Eight months (1 inch and over)	121.0	117.5	142.5	142.5	+17.8	+21.3	0
Fall (3/4 inch and over)	110.8	112.5	132.5	132.5	+19.6	+17.8	0

Compiled from market reports of Agricultural Marketing Service.

including the promotion deductions. Also excluded are the pulled wool compensatory payments of over 7 million dollars made on lamb marketings. Payments under the 1955 incentive program were made on about 260 million pounds of shorn wool and about 936 million pounds, liveweight, of lambs and yearlings. The quantity of shorn wool involved exceeds the 1955 production since wool shorn after December 31, 1954 and sold during April 1, 1955-March 31, 1956, was eligible under the 1955 program.

Under the incentive program which went into effect with the 1955 marketing season, Government payments on marketings during one season are made during the following season. Payments will be made this year on marketings during April 1956-March 1957.

Domestic Wool Production Down a Little Last Year

Production of shorn and pulled wool in the United States in 1956 totaled 272 million pounds, equivalent to about 132 million pounds, scoured (table 3). Of the total, 232 million pounds were shorn wool and 40 million pounds were pulled wool. Output of both was a little lower than in 1955 and down for the second year in succession. A slight further decline in shorn wool production is likely this year, for the number of stock sheep at the beginning of the year was 2 percent lower than a year earlier. A substantial reduction is in prospect for Texas because of drought last year. Stock sheep numbers there at the beginning of this year were down 14 percent from a year earlier.

The quantity of wool shorn in 1956 was about 1 percent less than in 1955 and about 2 percent less than in 1954. But it was about 9 percent above the record low of 1949. About two-thirds of the net increase since 1949 is attributable to a heavier average fleece weight. The other one-third is associated with a larger number of sheep shorn.

Number of sheep shorn increased somewhat between 1949 and 1952. It declined slightly each successive year thereafter. The 27.2 million head shorn last year compares with 27.4 million head in 1955 and 28.1 million head in 1952. A decline of about 5 percent in the number shorn in Western sheep States since 1952 has been only partly offset by an increase of about 1 percent in the "Native" or "fleece" wool States (table 4). The Western sheep States accounted for about two-thirds of the sheep shorn last year.

The average weight per fleece last year was 8.52 pounds, slightly below the record high of 8.55 pounds in 1955. But it was 2 percent above that of 1952 and 6 percent above that of 1949.

The quantity of pulled wool produced last year was 4 percent less than in 1955 and 8 percent less than in 1954. But it was 54 percent higher

Table 3.- Number of sheep and lambs shorn, weight per fleece, price per pound received by growers, value of sales, and wool production, United States, 1940-56

Year	Sheep and lambs shorn 1/	Weight per fleece	Shorn wool production	Price per pound 2/	Value of sales 3/	Pulled wool production	Total wool production: As reported	Total wool production: Approximate clean fiber equivalent 4/
	Thousands	Pounds	Thousand pounds	Cents	Thousand dollars	Thousand pounds	Thousand pounds	Million pounds
1940	46,313	8.03	372,014	28.4	105,539	62,000	434,014	210.2
1941	47,722	8.12	387,520	35.5	137,754	65,800	453,320	219.9
1942	49,287	7.88	388,297	40.1	155,728	66,700	454,997	220.9
1943	47,892	7.91	378,834	41.6	157,587	65,200	444,043	215.6
1944	43,165	7.84	338,318	42.3	143,224	73,500	411,818	204.0
1945	38,763	7.95	307,976	41.9	128,970	70,500	378,476	188.4
1946	34,647	8.11	280,908	42.3	118,805	61,300	342,208	169.6
1947	30,953	8.12	251,425	42.0	105,654	56,600	308,025	153.1
1948	28,649	8.09	231,770	49.2	114,055	46,600	278,370	136.9
1949	26,382	8.07	212,899	49.4	105,223	35,600	248,499	120.4
1950	26,380	8.22	216,944	62.1	134,623	32,400	249,344	119.8
1951	27,347	8.34	228,091	97.1	221,456	25,900	253,991	119.8
1952	28,051	8.32	233,309	54.1	126,327	33,600	266,909	127.9
1953	27,845	8.34	232,258	5/54.9	127,514	42,200	274,458	133.8
1954	27,692	8.52	235,807	5/53.2	125,538	43,500	279,307	136.4
1955	27,383	8.55	234,058	42.6	99,813	41,600	275,658	134.2
1956 6/	27,229	8.52	232,126	7/42.7	99,156	39,900	272,026	132.1

1/ Includes sheep shorn at commercial feeding yards.
2/ Revised: Beginning with 1943 the average price is for the marketing season April through March. Prior to 1943 average prices relate to the calendar year.
3/ Computed using April-March average prices beginning with 1943 and calendar year averages prior to 1943.
4/ Production as reported converted on basis of 44 percent yield for shorn wool and 75 percent yield for pulled wool.
5/ Includes an allowance for wool under loan. 6/ Preliminary.
7/ Weighted average price for wool sold April 1956 through January 1957.

Table 4.- Number of stock sheep, number of sheep shorn, and shorn wool production, Native or fleece wool States and Western sheep States, 1949 to date

Year	"Native" or "fleece" wool States			Western sheep States 1/		
	Stock sheep on January 1	Sheep shorn	Shorn wool production	Stock sheep on January 1	Sheep shorn	Shorn wool production
	Thousands	Thousands	Thousand pounds	Thousands	Thousands	Thousand pounds
1949	7,605	7,503	55,104	19,335	18,879	157,795
1950	7,428	7,569	56,317	18,754	18,811	160,627
1951	7,807	8,063	60,734	19,444	19,284	167,510
1952	8,440	8,830	65,952	19,504	19,221	167,357
1953	8,678	8,929	67,130	18,915	18,916	165,128
1954	8,608	8,805	66,803	18,471	18,887	169,004
1955	8,673	8,708	66,999	18,464	18,675	167,059
1956	8,867	8,912	68,864	18,145	18,317	163,262
1957	9,082			17,288		

1/ Includes South Dakota, Texas, Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, Nevada, Washington, Oregon and California.

than the record low of 1951, when both slaughter and the ratio of slaughter to inventories were unusually low. The average weight of wool pulled per skin last year was 3.44 pounds, compared with 3.53 pounds in 1955. In 1954 it was 3.48 pounds, and in 1951 it was 3.49 pounds. The number of skins pulled last year was about 2 percent less than in 1955 and about 7 percent less than in 1954, but about 57 percent higher than in 1951.

Mohair Production Up 8 Percent Last Year

Production of mohair in the 7 principal producing States in 1956 amounted to 18.2 million pounds, grease basis, the largest clip in 10 years (table 5). It was about 8 percent larger than the 1955 clip and almost half again as large as the 1952 clip, the smallest in over 25 years. Production is likely to increase again this year. Number of Angora goats in Texas early this year was up 5 percent from a year earlier. Texas accounted for 97 percent of last year's production.

About 6 percent more goats were clipped last year than in 1955. The average clip per goat was 5.8 pounds, the highest of record. The average clip in 1955 was 5.7 pounds.

Prices Received by Growers for 1956 Mohair Clip Averaged Above 1955

Prices received by growers for mohair produced in 1956 averaged 84.4 cents per pound, grease basis, 2.2 cents higher than the average for the 1955 clip and 12 cents higher than for the 1954 clip. Prices rose during the last two years, despite increased domestic and world production. While domestic consumption has declined sharply in recent years, exports have become an increasingly important outlet for domestic mohair. Indications are that over three-fourths of the 1956 clip was exported.

Prices of kid and the finer adult hair have declined over the last two years. However, prices of the coarser adult hair advanced. Normally, 24's and coarser hair account for 70 percent or more of the clip. Demand for the coarse hair has strengthened over the last 2 years. But production of coarse hair probably has been increasing at a slower rate than that of fine hair, for mohair coarsens with the age of the goat.

Because the average of prices received for the 1956 clip was above the support level of 70 cents, payments are not necessary. Trade reports indicate that at least 90 percent of the 1957 spring clip is already sold or under contract at prices above those for the 1956 spring clip and considerably above the 70-cent support level.

Table 5.- Number of goats clipped, average clip per goat, price per pound received by growers, value of sales, and mohair production, in the seven principal producing States, United States, 1940-56 1/

Year	Goats clipped 2/	Average clip per goat	Production	Price per pound	Value of sales
	Thousand	Pounds	Thousand pounds	Cents	Thousand dollars
1940	4,297	4.9	21,144	49.7	10,504
1941	4,542	4.8	21,766	56.9	12,389
1942	4,322	4.8	20,676	49.3	10,203
1943	4,276	4.7	20,156	57.1	11,518
1944	4,109	5.0	20,443	60.1	12,295
1945	4,291	5.1	22,008	55.3	12,180
1946	3,939	4.9	19,282	61.1	11,783
1947	3,672	5.0	18,225	53.6	9,772
1948	3,164	5.1	15,972	45.4	7,251
1949	2,558	5.1	12,959	46.3	6,001
1950	2,530	5.2	13,245	76.0	10,062
1951	2,472	5.2	12,892	118.0	15,187
1952	2,287	5.3	12,215	96.3	11,763
1953	2,337	5.5	12,757	87.7	11,187
1954	2,618	5.6	14,578	72.4	10,549
1955	2,983	5.7	16,923	82.2	13,912
1956 3/	3,164	5.8	18,233	84.4	15,381

1/ Arizona, California, Missouri, New Mexico, Oregon, Texas, Utah. A small quantity of mohair is produced in other States but no estimate is made of the quantity.

2/ In States where goats are clipped twice a year the number clipped is the sum of goats and kids clipped in the spring and kids clipped in the fall.

3/ Preliminary.

Value of Sales of Mohair Up Last Year

The larger production and higher prices of mohair last year relative to 1955 resulted in an increase of 11 percent in the value of the mohair clip. The value of sales from mohair clipped in 1956 amounted to 15.4 million dollars compared with 13.9 million dollars in 1955.

1956-57 Wool Exports from Southern Hemisphere Somewhat Above 1955-56

Total exports of wool from the 5 major surplus-producing countries of the Southern Hemisphere during the early part of the 1956-57 season were larger than the total for the same months of 1955-56 (table 6). Substantial increases in exports from Austrailia and New Zealand more than offset declines from Argentina, Union of South Africa, and Uruguay. Production has risen in all of these countries except Uruguay.

Table 6.- Exports of wool, actual weight, from Southern Hemisphere surplus-producing countries, 1954-55, 1955-56 and 1956-57 seasons through January 1/

Exporting country	1954-55	1955-56	1956-57
	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds
Australia	560	648	693
New Zealand 2/	129	118	159
Union of South Africa	147	151	143
Argentina 2/	36	50	45
Uruguay 2/	13	51	34

1/ Season beginning July 1 in Australia, New Zealand, and Union of South Africa, and season beginning October 1 in Argentina and Uruguay.
2/ Through December.
Compiled from reports of the Commonwealth Economic Committee.

U. S. Imports of Dutiable Wool Down From Early 1956

Imports of dutiable wool for consumption during January amounted to 9.8 million pounds, clean content, about 20 percent less than a year earlier. Imports were below a year earlier each month from June 1956 through January

of this year. The decline reflected in part the sale and use of a substantial quantity of CCC wool. Lower mill use than a year earlier was also a factor during the last 3 months of this period.

Total imports during 1956 amounted to 104 million pounds, clean content, about 8 percent less than during 1955. Imports of wools finer than 56's were 17 percent lower than in 1955, but imports of 56's and coarser wools were up 16 percent. Wools finer than 56's represented almost two-thirds of total dutiable imports last year.

January Imports of Duty-free Wool Lower Than Year Earlier

United States imports of duty-free wool for consumption during January amounted to 13.8 million pounds, clean content. The quantity imported was about 18 percent less than in January 1956. January was the second successive month during which imports were below a year earlier.

Total imports of duty-free wools during 1956 came to 143 million pounds, about 5 percent more than in 1955. The higher imports last year reflected the increase in consumption. Duty-free imports of wools not finer than 40's were 28 percent higher than in 1955, but imports of "named" wools were down 14 percent. Wools not finer than 40's accounted for 55 percent of the total.

CCC Holdings of Wool Continue to Decline

As of the end of March, Commodity Credit Corporation holdings of wool acquired under the 1952-54 price support programs amounted to about 55 million pounds, actual weight, or approximately 25 million pounds, scoured. When the competitive bid selling program went into effect on November 1, 1955, CCC holdings of wool totaled 149 million pounds, actual weight, or roughly 68 million pounds, scoured.

Sales were below the monthly quota of 6 1/4 million pounds during both February and March, when the 1957 clip began to come on the market and the domestic demand eased a little. Sales were also below the quota during those months of 1956 when sales of 1956 clip wool were relatively heavy.

World Wool Consumption Last Year Up for Second Successive Year

The Commonwealth Economic Committee estimates that the world used a record quantity of wool during 1956. World consumption last year is tentatively estimated at 2,830 million pounds, clean basis, 8 percent more than in 1955 and 11 percent more than in 1954. Consumption was about 4 percent higher than the CEC estimate of world production during 1955-56 and about 1 percent larger than their forecast of production for 1956-57.

Consumption in the 11 major consuming countries which furnish the CEC with estimates -- Australia, Belgium, Canada, France, German Federal Republic, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Sweden, United Kingdon, and United States -- was almost 9 percent above 1955. Increases were indicated for 9 of these 11 countries. Changes relative to 1955 ranged from an increase of 41 percent in Japan to a decline of 17 percent in Sweden.

The estimated consumption of 1,000 million pounds in the rest of the world was about 8 percent above 1955. This estimate, which is very tentative, is based on information on available supplies of the raw fiber or wool textile production.

Use of fiber other than raw wool by the wool textile industries of reporting countries increased only 3 percent. Changes relative to 1955 ranged from an increase of 10 percent in Italy to a decline of 5 percent in Canada. The statistics on non-wool fiber relate to consumption at the carding stage only. They do not include fiber consumed at a later stage in the form of tops or yarn produced outside the wool textile industry.

1957 Domestic Mill Use of Apparel Wool Running Below 1956

Aggregate consumption of apparel wool (domestic and duty-paid foreign) by domestic mills during January-February 1957 amounted to 48.9 million pounds, scoured basis. Consumption during January-February 1956 totaled 50.0 million pounds. It should be noted that the 1957 aggregate covers a period of 9 weeks, but that for 1956 covers only 8 weeks. A comparison of the average weekly rates for the two periods indicates that the rate early this year was 13 percent below that of early 1956, a much greater decline than suggested by the aggregates. The rate for February was 12 percent below a year earlier. February was the fourth successive month during which the rate of consumption was down from a year earlier (table 7). The decline was concentrated in the 60's and finer and the 48's and coarser categories. Mill use of 50's up to 60's changed only slightly from a year earlier.

The decline early this year from early 1956 extended to both the woolen and worsted systems. The percentage decline was about the same for both systems.

The Bureau of the Census recently issued revised aggregate consumption figures for 1955 and 1956, 281 million pounds and 296 million pounds, respectively. These figures are about 5 and 6 million pounds, respectively, lower than the original estimates. On the basis of the revised data, mill use last year was about 5 percent above 1955 and about 11 percent above the post-World War II low of 1954.

Table 7.- Average weekly rate of consumption of apparel and carpet wool on woolen and worsted systems, scoured basis, United States, by months, 1950-56

Classification	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.
1950												
Apparel	8,006	8,837	8,518	7,943	8,268	8,084	7,370	9,901	9,015	9,671	7,871	7,393
Carpet	3,974	3,977	3,989	4,208	4,097	3,725	2,448	3,989	3,710	4,223	3,712	3,638
Total	11,980	12,814	12,507	12,151	12,365	11,809	9,818	13,890	12,725	13,894	11,583	11,031
1951												
Apparel	8,192	7,496	7,020	8,754	8,609	8,541	6,282	7,320	6,912	6,360	6,368	6,300
Carpet	3,416	3,410	3,268	2,507	1,807	1,622	413	1,040	1,069	1,556	1,663	1,761
Total	11,608	10,906	10,288	11,261	10,416	10,163	6,695	8,360	7,981	7,916	8,031	8,061
1952												
Apparel	5,904	6,218	5,971	5,876	6,277	6,779	6,335	7,621	7,784	7,656	7,120	6,725
Carpet	2,261	2,513	2,385	2,265	2,033	1,403	1,289	2,305	2,730	2,648	2,824	3,029
Total	8,165	8,731	8,356	8,141	8,310	8,182	7,624	9,926	10,514	10,304	9,944	9,754
1953												
Apparel	7,033	7,599	7,704	7,472	8,075	8,034	6,526	7,649	7,083	5,986	4,717	4,118
Carpet	2,869	3,238	3,295	2,929	2,450	2,622	1,490	2,677	2,503	2,358	2,258	2,137
Total	9,902	10,837	10,999	10,401	10,525	10,656	8,016	10,326	9,586	8,344	6,975	6,255
1954												
Apparel	4,652	4,916	4,894	5,476	5,851	5,570	5,271	5,926	4,881	4,962	4,685	4,520
Carpet	2,514	2,500	2,389	2,346	2,093	1,793	1,370	2,296	2,300	2,365	2,274	2,214
Total	7,166	7,416	7,283	7,822	7,944	7,363	6,641	8,222	7,181	7,327	6,959	6,734
1955												
Apparel	5,350	5,726	5,443	5,696	5,877	5,416	5,181	5,797	5,189	5,752	5,674	5,198
Carpet	2,546	2,540	2,541	2,555	2,585	2,251	1,655	2,629	2,650	2,976	2,893	2,775
Total	7,896	8,266	7,984	8,251	8,462	7,667	6,836	8,426	7,839	8,728	8,567	7,973
1956												
Apparel	6,139	6,370	5,885	6,254	6,168	5,661	5,389	6,088	5,315	6,106	5,090	5,174
Carpet	3,203	3,351	2,890	3,028	2,856	2,360	1,788	3,036	2,680	3,197	2,307	2,677
Total	9,342	9,721	8,775	9,282	9,024	8,021	7,177	9,124	7,995	9,303	7,397	7,851
1957												
Apparel	5,306	5,581										
Carpet	2,973	3,199										
Total	8,279	8,780										

Derived from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Table 8.- Percentage distribution of apparel wool and other fiber consumed on the worsted system, United States, by months, 1951-57 1/

Fiber	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Year
	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
Shorn and pulled wool of the sheep													
1951	84.7	86.0	84.4	88.1	87.8	87.2	85.4	86.2	86.9	84.8	82.5	83.2	85.8
1952	85.5	84.4	82.5	85.4	85.6	86.7	89.6	87.6	88.2	87.6	86.5	84.8	86.4
1953	86.2	85.3	89.2	88.7	89.3	87.9	91.2	89.9	90.8	89.2	86.2	88.6	88.6
1954	86.7	87.9	86.7	87.8	88.1	88.4	89.7	88.5	87.8	83.5	86.0	88.1	87.6
1955	87.4	88.1	88.4	86.9	85.1	86.5	87.8	86.8	87.4	88.6	89.9	88.7	87.6
1956	88.9	88.6	88.5	88.3	87.9	89.4	89.5	88.4	90.1	89.8	89.4	89.0	89.0
1957	89.5	89.1											
Manmade fiber 2/ 3/													
1951	4.4	3.9	3.7	3.1	3.4	3.0	2.9	2.2	2.3	2.3	2.5	3.3	3.2
1952	3.3	3.4	4.3	3.3	2.4	2.9	2.5	2.9	2.1	2.4	2.8	3.0	2.9
1953	8.6	8.3	7.3	7.2	6.0	6.5	4.6	5.8	5.5	5.9	6.6	4.3	6.5
1954	6.2	6.0	6.5	5.8	5.6	5.8	4.9	5.0	6.6	6.1	5.6	5.4	5.8
1955	6.3	5.4	6.0	6.4	6.8	6.7	6.8	7.5	6.8	5.8	4.8	6.3	6.3
1956	6.4	6.0	5.8	6.0	6.0	5.1	4.7	5.4	5.5	6.1	6.3	6.2	5.8
1957	5.9	6.5											
Other fiber 2/													
1951	10.9	10.1	11.9	8.8	8.8	9.6	11.7	11.6	10.8	12.9	15.0	13.5	11.0
1952	11.2	12.2	13.2	11.3	12.0	10.4	7.9	9.5	9.7	10.0	10.7	12.2	10.7
1953	5.2	6.4	3.5	4.1	4.7	5.6	4.2	4.3	3.7	4.9	7.2	7.1	4.9
1954	7.1	6.1	6.8	6.4	6.3	5.8	5.4	6.5	5.6	10.4	8.4	6.5	6.6
1955	6.3	6.5	5.6	6.7	8.1	6.8	5.4	5.7	5.8	5.6	5.3	5.0	6.1
1956	4.7	5.4	5.7	5.7	6.1	5.5	5.8	6.2	4.4	4.1	4.3	4.8	5.2
1957	4.6	4.4											

1/ Consumption on the worsted system is taken as the sum of top and noil production.

2/ Prior to January 1953, man-made fibers other than rayon and acetate were included in "other fiber."

3/ Does not include top converted from tow without combing.

Derived from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Table 9.- Percentage distribution of apparel wool and other fiber consumed for the spinning of yarn (except carpet) on the woolen system, United States, by months, 1951-57

Fiber	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Year
	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
Shorn and pulled wool of the sheep:													
1951	35.3	36.7	39.6	41.7	42.0	42.0	46.5	45.5	45.9	47.1	45.1	45.2	42.5
1952	43.4	42.2	42.3	41.6	42.0	41.2	41.9	43.4	42.7	43.8	44.2	43.8	42.7
1953	43.6	46.1	45.3	47.9	45.1	44.0	42.3	45.6	47.4	46.8	46.7	45.8	44.7
1954	45.4	42.8	43.4	43.2	43.2	42.3	41.0	41.8	43.6	43.2	44.0	42.9	43.0
1955	43.0	42.8	42.2	41.9	42.9	41.3	41.6	39.8	40.5	39.3	40.7	41.1	40.4
1956	40.3	39.7	40.9	41.4	40.1	41.6	41.5	40.8	41.2	41.2	41.0	41.0	40.2
1957	40.2	40.8											
Other wool, reprocessed wool, and reused wool 1/:													
1951	48.3	45.5	42.8	44.3	42.5	43.5	40.3	40.8	41.6	41.2	43.1	42.4	43.2
1952	43.8	43.6	42.0	42.6	42.4	45.7	46.2	42.6	43.0	42.2	41.5	41.9	43.2
1953	43.1	40.6	40.1	37.0	41.2	42.2	44.6	40.1	38.4	38.5	36.6	40.2	41.3
1954	40.6	41.6	41.0	41.0	42.5	44.7	45.5	42.5	41.1	41.5	40.4	43.2	42.2
1955	42.4	41.3	40.5	41.8	40.5	42.3	42.0	41.4	41.6	43.5	41.3	42.8	42.5
1956	43.1	42.6	42.0	41.4	41.9	40.1	41.3	40.9	39.8	39.8	39.1	40.9	41.5
1957	39.9	39.5											
Manmade fiber 2/													
1951	7.0	8.3	7.6	6.1	7.2	6.6	5.5	5.3	5.0	4.3	4.2	4.4	6.0
1952	4.3	4.9	6.6	6.0	6.2	4.9	4.4	4.8	5.1	5.0	4.8	4.9	5.1
1953	8.7	8.2	8.9	9.4	8.6	8.2	8.1	8.8	8.3	8.6	9.6	7.2	8.5
1954	8.0	10.1	10.5	11.0	9.9	9.3	9.7	11.4	11.6	11.4	11.4	10.2	10.4
1955	11.1	12.6	13.7	12.7	12.9	12.7	12.8	14.4	13.9	12.8	13.6	11.6	13.1
1956	11.9	12.6	12.4	12.8	13.6	13.6	13.0	13.7	14.3	14.4	15.0	13.5	13.6
1957	15.0	14.6											
Other fiber 2/													
1951	9.4	9.5	10.0	7.9	8.3	7.9	7.7	8.4	7.5	7.4	7.6	8.0	8.3
1952	8.5	9.3	9.1	9.8	9.4	8.2	7.5	9.2	9.2	9.0	9.5	9.4	9.0
1953	4.6	5.1	5.7	5.7	5.1	5.6	5.0	5.5	5.9	6.1	7.1	6.8	5.5
1954	6.0	5.5	5.1	4.8	4.4	3.7	3.8	4.3	3.7	3.9	4.2	3.7	4.4
1955	3.5	3.3	3.6	3.6	3.7	3.7	3.6	4.4	4.0	4.4	4.4	4.5	4.0
1956	4.7	5.1	4.7	4.4	4.4	4.7	4.2	4.6	4.7	4.6	4.9	4.6	4.7
1957	4.9	5.1											

1/ As defined in the Wool Products Labeling Act of 1939.

2/ Prior to January 1953, manmade fibers other than rayon and acetate were included in "other fiber".

Derived from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Consumption on the worsted system (top and noil production) last year is now estimated to have been about 9 percent above 1955 and about 10 percent above 1954. Use on the woolen system (wool laid in mixes) is estimated to have been about 2 percent higher than in 1955 and about 12 percent higher than in 1954. The worsted system accounted for about 52 percent of the total for the two systems, compared with 50 percent in 1955 and 52 percent in 1954 (table 10).

For both years the downward revisions were concentrated in the 60's and finer category on the woolen system. Use of 60's and finer wools on the two systems is now estimated at 160 million pounds last year and 148 million pounds in 1955. This grade category accounted for 54.3 percent of the wool used last year (table 11). The proportion last year was up for the fourth successive year. During the early postwar years, it accounted for over 60 percent of the total.

Last year, the worsted system accounted for 67 percent of the 60's and finer wool, 34 percent of the 50's up to 60's, and 30 percent of the 48's and coarser. The worsted system always has accounted for the larger share of the 60's and finer wool used.

Domestic Mills Use Less Carpet Wool Early This Year

Mill use of carpet (duty-free foreign) wool during January-February 1957 was below a year earlier, both in terms of the total quantity used and the average weekly rate of consumption. The average weekly rate for the 9-week period of 1957 was 6 percent below that of the 8-week period of 1956. The rate for February, the fourth successive month when the rate was below a year earlier, was 5 percent lower than that for February 1956. Prior to last November the rate had been above a year earlier for each of 25 consecutive months.

Wool's proportion of total fiber used in the spinning of carpet and rug yarn on the woolen system was below a year earlier during each of the last 4 months for which information is available (table 14). Prices of coarse wools suitable for floor converings began to advance toward the end of last year.

Woolen and Worsted Fabric Production Increased Last Year

Domestic mills produced about 11 million pounds of woven felt and about 327 million finished linear yards of other woolen and worsted woven fabric during 1956 (table 15). These totals are for fabrics containing by weight 50 percent or more wool, reprocessed wool, or reused wool. Production of woven felt was about 2 percent above 1955 and almost 14 percent above 1954. Total output of other woolen and worsted fabrics was 5 percent larger than in 1955 and 17 percent larger than in 1954.

Table 10.- Percentage distribution of apparel wool consumption, on woolen and worsted systems, United States, 1947-56

System	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956 1/
	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
Worsted	64.0	65.8	59.1	67.3	58.9	53.9	57.5	52.0	49.8	51.5
Woolen	36.0	34.2	40.9	32.7	41.1	46.1	42.5	48.0	50.2	48.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

1/ Preliminary.

Derived from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Table 11.- Percentage distribution of apparel wool consumption by grades, United States, 1947-56

Grade	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956 1/
	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
60's and finer	62.2	62.6	54.6	56.3	58.5	51.2	50.9	52.4	52.7	54.3
50's up to 60's	25.6	26.9	35.4	34.5	32.8	35.8	35.9	34.5	36.0	36.0
48's and coarser	12.2	10.5	10.0	9.2	8.7	13.0	13.2	13.1	11.3	9.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

1/ Preliminary.

Derived from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Table 12.- Percentage distribution of apparel wool consumption on worsted system, by grades, United States, 1947-56

Grade	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956 1/
	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
60's and finer	70.7	71.5	65.0	65.4	69.4	63.1	64.5	69.6	69.7	70.6
50's up to 60's	22.5	23.9	31.3	29.8	23.8	24.9	27.0	22.1	23.0	23.7
48's and coarser	6.8	4.6	3.7	4.8	6.8	12.0	8.5	8.3	7.3	5.7
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

1/ Preliminary.

Derived from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Table 13.- Percentage distribution of apparel wool consumption on woolen system, by grades, United States, 1947-56

Grade	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956 1/
	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
60's and finer	47.1	45.2	39.6	37.6	43.1	37.2	32.5	33.7	35.8	36.9
50's up to 60's	31.1	32.9	41.3	44.3	45.6	48.6	48.0	48.0	48.9	49.1
48's and coarser	21.8	21.9	19.1	18.1	11.3	14.2	19.5	18.3	15.3	14.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

1/ Preliminary

Derived from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Apparel fabric accounted for over 96 percent of the total yardage of woolen and worsted fabric output. Government orders, which represented about 1 percent of the apparel fabric, were down to about half of the 1955 quantity. The remainder was about equally divided between fabric for men's and boys' wear and fabric for women's and children's wear. Production of men's and boys' wear fabric was about 12 percent above 1955 and about 31 percent above 1954. Women's and children's wear fabric was about 5 percent above 1955 and about 16 percent above 1954. For both categories of fabric, increases relative to 1955 for worsteds were greater than those for woolens. However, relative to 1954, the gains for worsteds were less than for woolens.

Production of non-apparel fabric, mostly blanketing and upholstery, was down for the third year in succession. The quantity produced last year was only one-fourth that of 1953. It was down over one-fifth from 1955.

A comparison of quarterly production statistics for 1956 with comparable data for 1955 indicates a significant downward movement over the year in the production ratios for most categories (table 16). During the final quarter of last year, production of woven felt was 8 percent below a year earlier; it had been 12 percent above a year earlier during the first quarter. Output of other woolen and worsted woven fabric during the final quarter was about the same as a year earlier, but it had been 13 percent above a year earlier during the first quarter.

Mixed Trends in Cuttings of Men's Tailored Clothing Early This Year

Cuttings of men's summer-weight suits during January-February were up 14 percent from a year earlier (table 17). But both the number of regular-weight suits and the number of separate dress and sport trousers were 3 percent below early 1956. Twelve percent fewer overcoats and topcoats were produced early this year.

The proportion of dress and sport trousers cut from wool fabric was 34 percent compared with 29 percent last year (table 18). The proportion of summer-weight suits cut from wool fabric was 44 percent compared with 41 percent last year.

Mixed Trends in Production of Women's Outerwear Early this Year

During January-February, manufacturers of women's, misses's, and juniors' outwear produced 4 percent fewer coats, 23 percent fewer suits, 5 percent fewer unit-priced dresses, and 1 percent fewer skirts than a year earlier (table 19). But production of blouses was up 12 percent, and sweaters up 1 percent from January-February 1956.

Table 14.- Percentage distribution of fibers consumed for spinning of carpet and rug yarns on the woolen system, United States, by months 1950-57

Fiber	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Year
	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
Shorn and pulled wool of the sheep													
1950	80.3	80.3	81.2	81.6	81.6	79.1	75.5	78.4	78.5	76.8	74.7	74.2	79.2
1951	73.9	71.4	72.5	63.0	54.6	52.0	38.7	56.2	57.4	65.5	64.5	69.8	64.6
1952	71.1	73.8	72.0	72.4	70.9	74.5	75.1	78.5	75.2	74.2	75.5	73.9	73.9
1953	73.6	73.4	73.4	74.9	73.0	74.0	74.7	77.7	75.8	74.3	75.5	75.3	74.6
1954	72.8	74.8	76.1	74.9	74.2	71.5	69.7	71.3	73.2	69.7	71.7	71.7	72.8
1955	67.3	67.3	67.1	68.5	72.6	68.5	69.2	70.3	71.9	70.9	70.8	73.1	69.8
1956	73.3	73.8	76.3	72.1	73.6	74.4	71.2	72.2	70.3	71.2	66.9	68.5	71.9
1957	72.0	74.8											
Other wool 1/													
1950	3.4	3.8	3.4	3.0	3.1	3.8	3.1	4.6	3.2	3.3	3.1	2.7	3.4
1951	2.5	2.8	3.3	3.5	3.6	3.6	3.7	2.8	2.1	2.4	2.0	3.7	3.0
1952	2.7	2.1	3.2	3.8	4.3	2.4	2.4	2.3	4.0	4.3	4.6	4.2	2.5
1953	4.0	5.5	5.0	5.3	4.3	6.6	4.8	4.9	4.7	5.8	5.2	5.7	5.1
1954	2.1	1.8	2.0	2.3	2.3	2.2	3.0	1.7	2.1	2.5	2.2	2.0	2.1
1955	1.4	1.6	1.7	2.0	1.9	2.1	2.4	1.7	1.9	1.7	1.9	1.9	1.9
1956	1.7	1.8	2.0	1.5	2.0	1.6	2.2	1.4	1.1	1.2	1.0	1.0	1.5
1957	1.0	1.0											
Reused and reprocessed wool 1/													
1950	10.8	9.2	9.7	9.4	9.2	10.1	11.5	8.7	9.8	9.7	10.2	8.7	9.7
1951	9.2	9.6	8.9	9.1	9.2	8.5	13.1	5.0	8.5	6.8	7.3	5.8	8.5
1952	6.8	5.9	4.7	4.8	5.9	8.4	10.4	6.2	5.9	5.6	4.4	4.6	6.8
1953	5.4	4.0	5.0	4.8	5.9	4.8	7.1	4.1	5.0	4.4	7.7	4.4	5.1
1954	7.4	7.5	8.3	6.8	7.4	9.1	7.9	8.9	9.1	7.7	7.7	8.1	8.0
1955	9.1	8.6	9.8	7.9	6.2	6.3	6.9	6.2	7.7	8.0	7.8	8.2	7.8
1956	7.3	7.2	6.3	8.3	8.6	6.6	8.9	8.5	8.9	9.1	8.8	9.9	8.2
1957	10.1	7.5											
Man-made fiber 2/													
1950	2.4	4.0	3.0	3.4	3.8	4.5	5.5	5.7	5.8	7.2	9.4	12.3	5.6
1951	11.7	13.8	13.4	22.0	29.4	31.9	37.1	31.4	27.7	21.5	22.3	17.5	20.8
1952	17.4	15.8	18.6	17.6	17.2	12.2	9.6	11.5	13.2	14.2	14.0	16.1	15.1
1953	15.3	16.0	15.6	14.0	15.7	13.7	12.7	11.9	13.4	14.5	10.7	13.5	14.1
1954	16.8	14.8	12.5	14.9	15.3	16.6	19.1	17.3	15.3	18.2	17.4	17.4	16.2
1955	21.4	21.7	20.6	20.7	18.5	22.1	19.5	20.4	16.6	17.6	18.0	15.9	19.3
1956	17.0	16.5	14.5	17.1	15.1	16.5	16.3	16.7	18.2	17.4	21.9	19.6	17.3
1957	16.2	15.5											
Other fiber 2/													
1950	3.1	2.7	2.7	2.6	2.3	2.5	4.4	2.6	2.7	3.0	2.6	2.1	2.1
1951	2.7	2.4	1.9	2.4	3.2	4.0	7.4	4.6	4.3	3.8	3.9	3.2	3.1
1952	2.0	2.4	1.5	1.4	1.7	2.5	2.5	1.5	1.7	1.7	1.5	1.2	1.7
1953	1.7	1.1	1.0	1.0	1.1	.9	.7	1.4	1.1	1.0	.9	1.1	1.1
1954	.9	1.1	1.1	1.1	.8	.6	.3	.8	.3	1.9	1.0	.8	.9
1955	.8	.8	.8	.9	.8	1.0	2.0	1.4	1.9	1.8	1.5	.9	1.2
1956	.7	.7	.9	1.0	.7	.9	1.4	1.2	1.5	1.1	1.4	1.0	1.1
1957	.7	1.2											

1/ As defined in the Wool Products Labeling Act of 1939.

2/ Prior to January 1953, synthetics other than rayon and acetate were included with "other fibers."

Derived from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Table 15.- Woolen and worsted fabric production in United States, 1954-56 1/

Fabric	1954	1955	1956	Percentage change 1956 from 1954	Percentage change 1956 from 1955
	1,000 linear yards	1,000 linear yards	1,000 linear yards	Percent	Percent
Woven fabric (except felt)	278,988	310,119	326,990	+17.2	+5.4
Apparel	256,439	295,153	315,176	+22.9	+6.8
Government orders	2,444	6,455	3,293	+34.7	-49.0
Other than Government orders	253,995	288,698	311,883	+22.8	+8.0
Men's and boys'	2/119,671	2/140,177	2/156,417	+30.7	+11.6
Woolen	50,844	68,761	72,531	+42.7	+5.5
Worsted	62,114	64,082	74,699	+20.3	+16.6
Women's and children's	2/134,324	2/148,521	2/155,466	+15.7	+4.7
Woolen	107,955	120,825	124,087	+14.9	+2.7
Worsted	16,160	14,595	17,772	+10.0	+21.8
Non-apparel	22,549	14,966	11,814	-47.6	-21.1
Blanketing	13,304	10,584	8,631	-35.1	-18.5
Government orders	3/	567	3/	---	---
Other than Government orders	3/	10,017	3/	---	---
Other non-apparel	9,245	4,382	3,183	-65.6	-27.4
	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Percent	Percent
Woven felt	9,866	10,977	11,194	+13.5	+2.0

1/ Principally wool, reprocessed wool, or reused wool by weight. Blanketing in 72 inch width or equivalent. Other fabrics in 54 to 60 inch widths or equivalent 54 width. 2/ Includes fabrics 20 oz. and over for which breakdown not available. 3/ Not available.
Complied from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Table 16.- Woolen and worsted fabric production in the United States during 1956 as percent of 1955

Fabric	January-March	April-June	July-September	October-December
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Woven fabric (except felt)	112.9	104.3	105.4	99.6
Apparel	114.5	106.0	106.3	100.7
Government orders	72.0	15.7	43.4	125.5
Other than Government orders	115.2	109.3	107.5	100.4
Men's and boys'	107.9	113.1	117.0	108.6
Woolen	91.6	107.5	115.4	109.7
Worsted	122.3	116.6	119.8	107.8
Women's and children's	123.7	105.6	99.7	93.0
Woolen	117.0	104.3	97.6	94.3
Worsted	156.3	117.3	128.3	93.1
Non-apparel	85.1	69.2	83.9	78.5
Blanketing	79.8	72.9	92.5	84.3
Government orders	1/	1/	1/	1/
Other than Government orders	1/	1/	1/	1/
Other non-apparel	96.7	58.2	65.2	64.8
Woven felt	111.6	107.1	97.0	92.3

1/ Not available.

Derived from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Table 17.- Cuttings of specified items of men's tailored clothing, United States, January-February 1955-57

Type of garment	Number of garments cut			Percentage change 1957 from	
	1955 (8 weeks)	1956 (8 weeks)	1957 (8 weeks)	1955	1956
	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Percent	Percent
Suits, total	3,664	3,736	3,888	+6.1	+4.1
Regular-weight	2,388	2,144	2,080	-12.9	-3.0
Summer-weight	1,276	1,592	1,808	+41.7	+13.6
50 percent or more wool	540	652	796	+47.4	+22.1
Man-made fibers	676	860	920	+36.1	+7.0
Other	60	80	92	+53.3	+15.0
Separate dress and sport trousers	10,656	10,944	10,656	0	-2.6
50 percent or more wool	3,552	3,168	3,600	+1.4	+13.6
Other	7,104	7,776	7,056	-.7	-9.3
Overcoats and topcoats	584	560	492	-16.8	-12.2

Compiled from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Table 18.- Percentage distribution of cuttings of men's tailored clothing, by fiber content and type of garment, United States, January-February 1955-57

Type of garment	1955	1956	1957
	Percent	Percent	Percent
Summer-weight suits	100.0	100.0	100.0
50 percent or more wool	42.3	41.0	44.0
Man-made fibers	53.0	54.0	50.9
Other	4.7	5.0	5.1
Separate dress and sport trousers	100.0	100.0	100.0
50 percent or more wool	33.3	28.9	33.8
Other	66.7	71.1	66.2

Derived from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Table 19.- Cuttings of specified items of women's, misses', and juniors' outerwear garments, by fiber content and type of garment, United States, January-February 1955-57

Type of garment	1955	1956	1957	Percentage change 1957 from 1956
	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Percent
Dresses (unit-priced)	21,946	25,323	24,050	-5.0
Rayon and acetate	11,815	13,313	12,536	-5.8
Other	10,131	12,010	11,514	-4.1
Skirts	13,788	13,944	13,824	-.9
Rayon and acetate	5,352	3,756	3,276	-12.8
Other	8,436	10,188	10,548	+3.5
Suits	3,529	3,579	2,758	-22.9
Rayon and acetate	1,688	1,464	1,084	-26.0
Other	1,841	2,115	1,674	-20.9
Coats	4,297	4,905	4,708	-4.0
Blouses	30,444	26,136	29,280	+12.0
Cotton	18,540	15,744	18,360	+16.6
Other	11,904	10,392	10,920	+5.1

Compiled from Facts for Industry Series M23H, Bureau of the Census.

Table 20.- Percentage distribution of cuttings of women's, misses', and juniors' outerwear garments, by fiber content and type of garment, United States, January-February 1955-57

Type of garment	1955	1956	1957
	Percent	Percent	Percent
Dresses (unit-priced)	100.0	100.0	100.0
Rayon and acetate	53.8	52.6	52.1
Other	46.2	47.4	47.9
Skirts	100.0	100.0	100.0
Rayon and acetate	38.8	26.9	23.7
Other	61.2	73.1	76.3
Suits	100.0	100.0	100.0
Rayon and acetate	47.8	40.9	39.3
Other	52.2	59.1	60.7
Blouses	100.0	100.0	100.0
Cotton	60.9	60.2	62.7
Other	39.1	39.8	37.3

Derived from Facts for Industry Series M23H, Bureau of the Census.

Table 21.- Wool used by the military forces: Clean basis, United States, by quarters, July 1954 to date 1/

Year and quarter	Quantity
	1,000 pounds
1954	
July-September	291
October-December	321
1955	
January-March	424
April-June	3,321
July-September	2,835
October-December	1,932
Total	8,512
1956	
January-March	1,231
April-June	632
July-September	958

1/ This series was discussed in "Deliveries of Wool Textile Products to the Military Forces" in The Wool Situation, August 13, 1956, pp. 30-31.

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